Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixty-Seventh Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology

THE MINISTERY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHARY MOHAN JATUA) : Sir, I make a Statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixty-seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : There is a small legislative business with regard to withdrawal of a Bill...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka) : No, no. No legislative business. ..*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Government is making a statement...*(Interruptions)*... As promised in response to your demand, the Home Minister has come to make a statement...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD VAISHYA (Assam) : Sir, in Assam...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please speak after this...*(Interruptions)*

Clarifying the issue of Leakage of the Liberhan Commission Report in the Media and Press

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Government has noticed that today a newspaper carries a new story relating to the report of the Liberahan Commission. The Liberahan Commission submitted its report on June 30, 2009. The Government is required to lay the Report on the Table of both Houses of Parliament, along with the action taken report, within six months from that date. The Government has already announced its intention to lay the report, along with an ATR, before the Parliament in the Winter Session. Given the Government's intention to lay the Report within stipulated time, it is unfortunate that a newspaper has published what purports to be the contents of the Reports. For reasons, which are obvious, I refrain from commenting on the correctness, or, otherwise on the contents of the new story. I can assure the House, Sir, that there is only one copy of the Liberahan Report with the Ministry of Home Affairs; and, it is in the safe custody. No one from the Ministry of Home Affairs has spoken to any journalist about the report. I reiterate the Government's intention to lay the Report before the Parliament, along with an ATR, in the current session...*(Interruptions)*

श्री उपसभापति : प्लीज आप बैठिए। ..**(व्यवधान)**... Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka) : Then, how did it leak out? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please sit down ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam) : Sir, in Assam ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Baishya, after this, we will take up that...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, the hon. Home Minister has made a statement and from his statement one thing is apparent that the part of the report in the newspaper which attributes the report to sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs does not appear to be accurate. It could be misleading, it could be deliberately misleading; we do know. But, then, if what the Home Minister says is correct and I have no reson to disbelieve him, the only other copy of this Report is with the Commission. therefore, the breach of the privilege of this House has taken place at the behest of the Commission, knowing fully well that the law requires the Report to be tabled in this House in the first instance and be discussed in this House. The House is in Session. The Government has already announced its decision to table the Report during this Session and you suddenly find this Report being leaked out to newspapers. We do not know whether the Report is authetic or not authentic. But, as I mentioned earlier in the morning, there are only two copies of this Report and no third person has it. If the Home Minister is right that he has not leaked it out, then, the only other leakage could have come from the Commission. This is a serious matter which this House must inquire as to how the leakage of this kind has taken place. It is a very serious matter. The House is in Session. It could be either the Government or the Commission. Now, the Government, authentically, makes a solemn statement before this House that it has not leaked it out; there is only one copy. So, where has this leakage come from? The alternative is, absolutely, clear. This House cannot be a silent spector to its dignity being lowered in this manner. Therefore, as the Chair, you must take steps to see that this matter is inquired into and what action is to be taken in this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will give you an opportunity.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, before we proceed further, outside, the Chairman of the Commission has also gone on record saying that it has not leaked out from his source. So, my point is, unless we are able to come to a conclusion, we cannot move forward. We are sorry...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no...*(Interruptions)*... As for clarifications on the Report, the Home Minister is still to reply...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Let the original Report come...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand) : Let them lay the Report ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : We are waiting to hear the leaders of other political parties ...*(Interruptions)*... Let everybody be given time. Sir, my submission is, the House can move forward if you have the Report here...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. leaders of other political parties seek their clarifications...*(Interruptions)*.. I have a request for clarification from ...*(Interruptions)*... Please Mr. Baishya, that will be taken up after this.

श्री अमर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : धन्यवाद उपसभापति महोदय, अभी-अभी प्रतिपक्ष के नेता ने जो बात कही है, उससे पूरी तरह सहमत हूं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि लिब्राहन आयोग की रिपोर्ट पिछले 17 सालों से लंबित है। बच्चे जवान हो गए, जवान बूढ़े हो गए और बूढ़े मर गए, लेकिन यह रिपोर्ट नही आई। किसी औद्योगिक समूह का विवाद हो या गैस का विवाद हो, सुप्रीम कोर्ट में रोज-दर-रोज सुना जाता है, लेकिन अयोध्या के संवेदनशील मामले पर 17 सालों से भी उसके बारे में कोई फैसला नहीं हुआ है। वह मंदिर है या मस्जिद है, इसका फैसला 17 सालों से नहीं हुआ है। जबकि डे-टुडे हियरिंग इण्स्टियल डिस्प्यूट की हो जाएगी, गैस की हो जाएगी, लेकिन इसकी नहीं होगी। यह गंभीर विषय है, इसमें हिन्दू और मुसलमानों के दिलों के टुकड़े हुए हैं। तो मैं चाहता हूं कि जो लिब्राहन रिपोर्ट है एकदम तार्किक बात है, या तो गृह मंत्री जी की सेफ्टी में हैं, एकदम हिफाजत से है या कमीशन के पास है। गृहमंत्री जी का हम भी विश्वास करते हैं, आदर करते हैं, जब उन्होंने सदन में कहा कि यह एकदम उनकी तरफ से नहीं है, तो हम भी मानते हैं कि नहीं है। तो इसका मतलब कमीशन की तरु से लीक हुआ है। सदन का सत्र चलते हुए अगर हमें अखबार के माध्यम से पता चले कि रिपोर्ट में क्या है तो बड़ी हास्यास्पद, बड़ी लज्जाजनक और बड़ी निराशाजनक बात है। इसका प्रतिदान होना चाहिए और जो हमारा प्रिविलेज हुआ है उसका खुलासा होना चाहिए और पता लगना चाहिए कि अपराधी कौन है।

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal) : Sir, this is a very serious matter. We have not reason to disbelieve the hon. Home Minister when he says that he can authenticate that the leakage has not been from his Ministry, not being from the Government.

Similarly, we also have media reports saying that Mr. Liberhan has gone on record to say that it is not leaked from their side. Now, this is something which in inexplicable. It has to come from either of these two. Now, both are denying it. In the process, you have the Parliament, the highest institution of our democracy, in Session and the Report is not tabled in the Parliament; but you have media reports and media discussions going on. This actually constitutes a breach of privilege of the House. It is a breach of the privilege of Parliament and this needs to be attended to immediately. As the Chair, we seek your protection and want to know how this has happened without casting any aspersions. It is because what appeared in the media are not...*(Interruptions)*... selective leaks. What appeared in media are not leakages of some paragraphs which some clerk might have given out when they are preparing the ATR. What has leaked out is a comprehensive summary and a comprehensive summary can only come from very authentic sources. Now, if that is the case, this is a very serious breach of privilege of the House and this must be seriously enquired into. As the Chair, we are only appealling to you and to the Government as well that this must be seriously enquired into and the prestige and the privilege of the House must be upheld. I am sure, when the ATR is being prepared, lots of officials are involved...*(Interruptions)*... I have also heard, I may be right or wrong, that they are all there in the Budget room locked up when they are preparing the ATR...*(Interruptions)*.. Now, if that is a case, ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to be corrected....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat) : The Minister has given a reply...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY : Please I am making a suggestion in the interest of the country as a whole...*(Interruptions)*...Please listen to me...*(Interruptions)*... Next time, onwards...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please, please आप बैठ जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY : Sir, we have great respect for the integrity of officials; I am not questioning the integrity of anybody. I am only saying that as you have jammed the cell phones in the House correctly, make sure that next time whenever reports are being prepared and the ATRs are prepared, in those places, these cell phones and communications and communications do not work. That is in the interest of the country as a whole...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, there are two issues involved. One is the leakage of the Report and I agree with other colleagues that there is no reason to doubt the Home Minister. But the leakage has taken place. It has lowered the dignity of the House. It is a serious matter and it needs to be probed. I do not know the mechanism which you will have to enquire into the issue. That is for the Chair and for the Government to decide.

The second issue is, it is true that the Government can take six months to place the Report, but considering the sensitivity of the issue, considering the long period that the Commission has taken, it is in the interest of the country that the Government should indicate when the Report will be placed. If it is during the Current Session, it should not be on the last day of the current Session and there must be some discussion on the Report.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI (Maharashtra) : Sir, I have heard the debate that took place in the House and I have also heard what the hon. Leader of the Opposition said. Two things are there. One is, the leakage of the Report and another thing is, why the tabling of the Report is so much delayed and why it was not tabled on the first day when the Session started. Sir, what was the difficultly for the Government? The Action Taken Report and the full Report should have been placed on the 1st day of this Session. Sir, today the news has appeared, and, I am sure, that news will keep appearing again in other newspapers. So, can the Government make a declaration that within a day or two, this Report will be tabled in the House along with the Action Taken Report? If that is done, I am sure, this issue can be closed. Therefore, we need a concrete assurance from the Government on this issue.

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदय, यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है। माननीय गृह मंत्री जी ने बयान दिया है कि गृह मंत्रालय की ओर से किसी तरह की कोई लीकेज़ नहीं हुई है। मैं भी इस बात पर यकीन करना चाहता हूं, लेकिन अखबार ने गृह मंत्रालय के अधिकारी का हवाला दिया है। उसके हवाले से कुछ बातें कही गई हैं, इसलिए स्वाभाविक रूप से संदेह पैदा होता है कि कहीं न कहीं से गृह मंत्रालय की ओर से इस बात को लीक किया गया है। जैसा कि बाकी सदस्यों ने भी कहा है कि यह स्पष्ट रूप से सदन की अवमानना है और हम गृह मंत्री जी से

तथा Chair से यह अपेक्षा करेंगे कि इस लीकेज के मामले की गंभीरता के साथ जांच होनी चाहिए, ताकि देश की जनता के सामने सच्चाई आ जाए तथा इसी सत्र में रिपोर्ट lay होनी चाहिए और सदन को समय भी मिलना चाहिए, ताकि हम उस पर डिस्कशन कर सकें। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री वेंकैया नायडु : सर, आज ही होना चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... Otherwise, we would doubt the intentions of the Government...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Dr. Malaisamy. Please do not make it long.

DR. K. MALAISAMY (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, while I am inclined to agree with the views expressed by our colleagues here, I have one simple question to ask. Will the Government of India ensure that hereafter this kind of leakage would not occur at all? Can they give such an assurance?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I have said what I can say. I must be a very foolish man to leak it and embarrass myself. I have said that there is only copy of the report in custody and no one in the Home Ministry has spoken to any journalist. Now, what the House wishes to do, what the Deputy Chairman wishes to do, what the Chairman wishes to do, you may please decide and tell me what I should do. The Report is a voluminous report and Action Taken Report has to be prepared. That takes time, especially when you are working in utmost secrecy, with just one officer looking at it. It has to be translated in Hindi under the rules of the House and Hindi and English versions have to be placed. Now, I have still not found a way in which 17 volumes or so can be translated without others coming to know of it. We are still working on it and I am confident that I will find a way. But beyond saying what I have said, with great respect, and beyond thanking my colleagues for reposing faith in the correctness of my words, what else can I say? There is only one copy of this Report and that is my custody. No one has spoken to any journalist.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, this is a very serious issue. My point is very simple. Six months are almost coming to an end. For any Government...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has already agreed...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री वेंकैया नायडु : सर, सुनिए, एग्री क्या? यह कोई mercy है क्या? Is it chairty to the House? The newspaper says that it would be continuted even tomorrow. What is this* going on? ...*(Interruptions)*... Who is responsible for this? Then the very crediability of the Commission would also be at stake if the Home Minister is right. I can only say that because he is saying it on the floor of the House, he is taking full responsibility. But if the Home Minister is righr, then the conclusion is that it must be from the Commission. Then the Commission has no credibility and the Report has no credibility whatsoever. And then, the media says that they shall continue it tomorrow. Will we have to wait till the last day of the Session because the translation has not take place? That translation has to be done was known to the Government even six months back. Any document can be translated in six months. Is it the Jharkhand elections? Is the united Opposition making the Government even six months back. Any document can be translated in six months. Is it the Jharkhand elections? Is the

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

united Opposition making the Government jittery? Why are they delaying it? What is the reason? He is not able to explain that. he has no explanation whatsoever. The Home Minister has no explanation; it is an insult and affront to the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has said whatever he had to say.

SHRI. M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : He must give us a specific assurance. Suppose, the same thing had been said about Congress leaders, would they have kept quiet? Please search your souls! I have not taken any names...*(Interruptions)* I have not taken any names. Search your souls...*(Interruptions)*... What is this*...*(Interruptions)*.. Please, try to understand the sentiments...*(Interruptions)*... Please, try to understand the sentiments ...*(Interruptions)*... He must come to the House tomorrow with a categorical....*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Minister wants to speak....*(Interruptions)*... You want some...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : The Home Minister said...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, not the Government. He is the Parliamentary Affairs Minister ...*(Interruptions)* The Parliamentary Affairs Minister wants to speak...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen to him...*(Interruptions)*....

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER OFFICE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : Sir, hon. Member wanted a specific reply from the hon. Home Minister...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the Home Minister has given a specific assurance that the report will be laid on the floor of this House during the session...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The report will be laid during this session ...*(Interruptions)*. On Assam...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please...*(Interruptions)*.... The statement will be laid tomorrow..*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House is adjourned till 2.00 p.m.

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* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

The House then adjourned at twenty-one minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled at two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill, 1999-withdrawal ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति, महोदय एक मुद्दा रह गया ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please, please.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : No, no. No Bill Sir...*(Interruptions)* He has to place some papers on the Table. Then, further ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no. This is only withdrawal of the Bill.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : We are against it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What do you want...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, we are against the Bill also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no. You are against the Bill...*(Interruptions)*... Your issue was discussed and the Hon. Minister has made the statement. An opportunity has been given to you. What else do you require? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : We want to know...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is your point of view...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, we want to know ...*(Interruptions)*... इंडियन पार्लियामेंट के पास रिपोर्ट नहीं है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Sir, the NDTV says that they have a copy of the report...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Statement to be made by the hon. Minister. Shri Farooq Abdullah...*(Interruptions)*...

Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission-"Solar India"

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH) : Sir, I lay a copy of the statement on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*...

I am happy to announce that the Government has approved a new policy on development of solar energy in the country with the launching of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission. This is a historic and transformational initiative of the UPA Government, and, I am proud to have the privilege of being assigned the task of overseeing its implementation. The Solar Mission is very much in line with the vision of modern India of Pandit Nehru, which has made India today, a leading nuclear and space power.

This Mission is one of the eight key National Missions which comprise India's National Action Plan on Climate Change. It has a twin objective--to contribute to India's long-term energy security as well